

(Bryan, Texas) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards today announced that the City of Bryan, Brazos County, and the Research Valley Partnership have been awarded a \$1.5 million U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to help develop the Next Generation Industrial Park.

*“This is great news that will help make the Next Generation Industrial Park in Bryan a reality for Brazos County families and businesses,”* said **Congressman Chet Edwards**, who last year wrote a letter to EDA in support of the grant for Brazos County and personally asked the office of the EDA Regional Administrator to visit the project.

*“The Next Generation Industrial Park will create new jobs and help ensure long-term economic growth in the Brazos Valley for years to come.”*

**Brazos County Judge Randy Sims** said, *“I want to thank Congressman Edwards for his effort in securing this grant to get started with our Next Generation Industrial Park. This will mean a number of new jobs created in Brazos County for our citizens and it will also bring in revenue for Bryan and Brazos County. This will be used appropriately and responsibly to put in an industrial park.”*

**Bryan Mayor Mark Conlee** said, *“This is great news for Bryan and Brazos County. This EDA Grant will allow us to provide incentives to businesses and create a new business park that will provide jobs and keep our economy strong. The City of Bryan and the Bryan and Brazos County Economic Foundation appreciates Congressman Edwards’ partnership in making this a reality.”*

**Tom Wilkinson, Brazos Valley Council of Governments** said, *“Brazos County's Industrial Parks are near capacity and this limits our area's ability to continue economic growth. Investment in the Next Generation Industrial Park by Brazos County, the City of Bryan, and our partners at the Economic Development Administration expands our capacity to meet the needs of new business. Next Generation Industrial Park also expands the Research Valley's opportunities in the booming Renewable Energy market. New markets create new, expanded employment opportunities for the entire area, and without the support of the EDA these new opportunities might not be possible.”*

The Next Generation Industrial Park is a joint venture between Brazos County, the Research Valley Partnership, and the City of Bryan to develop a light industrial and manufacturing park in the north end of Brazos County. It will connect businesses and industries with the Port of Houston and the rest of the country to ensure that private enterprise has an incentive to do business at this location. It is composed of the largest parcel of land available for development, about 1100 acres, and currently is held for 10 years under agreement by the Research Valley Partnership on behalf of Brazos County and Bryan. The governing bodies recently voted to purchase the land for Phase 1, which is about one-quarter of the park, and move forward with forming the Brazos County Economic Foundation to manage the park.